

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submissions filed on May 23, 2011 have been entered.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-6, 17-18 and 25-32 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank M Scutch III, Reg. #: 34,484 on July 12, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 6; delete the word 'further'; [[a controller further configured...]].

Allowance

4. Claims 1-6, 17-18 and 25-32 now renumbered claims 1-18 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the cited prior art of record teaches or fairly disclose: a processor configured to effect automatic operation of the light control system as a function of an ambient light value, wherein said ambient light value is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer; a controller further configured to generate an exterior light control signal if the light control system is operational as a function of the presence of an atmospheric condition of interest, wherein said controller is further configured to distinguish between reflections off of a highly reflective surface and reflections off of atmospheric conditions of interest based on input from at least one imager.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiries

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDRAE S. ALLISON whose telephone number is

(571)270-1052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vu Le can be reached on (571) 272-7223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

G.D.

July 14, 2011

/GREGORY M DESIRE/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624